

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: DPC, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA: INFORMAL DRC DISCUSSION, NOVEMBER 13

REF: A. USNATO 5829 DTG 242011Z OCT 75(NOTAL)

B. STATE 258138 DTG 310049Z OCT 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 18, DRC DISCUSSED AND CLEARED FOR PERMREPS' APPROVAL DRAFT OF DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA. DRAFT CONTAINS ITEM ON SACEUR'S FLEXIBILITY STUDY. DRC DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON TIMING OF RESTRICTED SESSION AND MINISTERIAL HANDLING OF STANDARDIZATION AGENDA ITEM. END SUMMARY.

1. DRC CONSIDERED REVISED DRAFT OF DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA IN INFORMAL SESSION NOVEMBER 13. FYI: REVISED DRAFT DIFFERED FROM REF A PRELIMINARY DRAFT BY ADDITION OF ITEM IID, "SACEUR'S STUDY ON FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION" (TO BE RAISED ORALLY BY THE CHAIRMAN), A CHANGE MADE AT OUR INSTIGATION PRIOR TO MEETING. END FYI.

2. FRG REP (SCHUNEMANN), ON INSTRUCTIONS: (A) INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONAL STAFF OR OTHERS HAD CONSIDERED AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING, (B) ASKED THAT AGENDA ITEM III TITLE BE REWORDED TO READ "RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION OF DEFENSE TASKS", AND (C) STATED MOD LEBER'S PREFERENCE FOR RESTRICTED SESSION TO BE HELD AS THE

OPENING ITEM OF SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING. HE ADDED THAT MINISTER LEBER WISHES TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL IN RESTRICTED SESSION. CHAIRMAN (HUMPHREYS) REPLIED THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT WOULD INCLUDE BRIEFING ON TRENDS IN NATO-WP BALANCE, AS REQUESTED AT MAY QOUT MINISTERIAL MEETING, THUS PARTIALLY FULFILLING NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING. FRG REP DID NOT PURSUE MATTER FUTHER. DRC ACCEPTED FRG SUGGESTION ON RETITLING AGENDA ITEM III. US REP (BADER), ACTING ON REF B INSTRUCTIONS, NOTED US PREFERENCE FOR RESTRICTED SESSION FOLLOWING MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT. CHAIRMAN AND CANADA REP (CHILD) DISAGREED, NOTING POSSIBILITY THAT PLENARY AGENDA ITEMS MIGHT BE GIVEN INADEQUATE ATTENTION IF RESTRICTED SESSION ON FIRST DAY TURNS OUT TO BE A LENGTHY ONE. FRG REP STATED THAT IF RESTRICTED SESSION IS HELD EARLY ON FIRST DAY, BONN WOULD PREFER THAT IT APPEAR FIRST ON THE AGENDA; I.E., BEFORE OPPENING CEREMONY. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF EMBASSY BONN WERE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE INQUIREIES AS TO WHAT FRG HAS IN MIND WITH REGARD TO SUBBBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION ON PORTUGAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH REGARD TO PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION. END COMMENT.

3. US REP NOTED THAT HE WAS "DELIGHTED" TO SEE SACEUR FLEXIBILITY STUDY ON REVISED DRAFT AGENDA, THEN SAID THAT A NUMBER OF ITEMS (CIVIL-MILITARY AVIATION PLANNING, SPRING REVIEW, STANDARDIZATION AND AWACS) MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT APPEAR ON FINAL AGENDA, DEPENDING ON PROGRESS MADE AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON THOSE ITEMS BETWEEN NOW AND MINISTERIAL MEETING. TIS PROVOVKED LIVELY DISCUSSION OF WHETHER STANDARDIZATION AGENDA ITEM SHOULD APPEAR ON DPC AS WELL AS NAC AGENDA. NETHERLANDS (CARSTEN) AND UK (PETERS) REPS INSISTED THAT STANDARDIZATION APPEAR ON BOTH AGENDAS. CHAIRMAN STRONGLY AGREED, OPINING THAT FOREIGN REPEAT FOREIGN MINISTERS DEAL POORLY WITH HARDWARE ISSUES. US REP STATED THAT, FOR US, ISSUE WAS NOT WHETHER ITEM WOULD APPEAR ON DPC AGENDA, BUT HOW IT WOULD BE HANDLED, SUGGESTING ON SYG MIGHT MERELY BRIEF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS IN DPC ON NAC WORK IN FORMING AD HOC GROUP. COMMENT: OUR APPROACH HAS DESIGNED TO AVOID PREJUDICING US PLAN FOR NAC MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMNENT OF DPC. MOREOVER, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR THAT ALL WILL SUPPORT DPC DISCUSSION OF STANDARDI
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ZATION, WHICH IS BEING PURSUED UNDER NAC PURVIEW. END COMMENT.

4. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT DRAFT AGENDA WOULD BE PLACED BEFORE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AT AN EARLY MEETING WITH FOOTNOTE ON RESTRICTED SESSION IDENTICAL TO THAT IN PRESENT DRAFT (AS IN REF A).
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